

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17961 291143Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O 291138Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2023
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED) EG
SUBJECT: ATHERTON PRESS PLAY

REF: CAIRO 17951

1. KAMEL. JULY 29 PRESS HEADLINES AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S
PREVIOUS DAY MEETING WITH FORMIN KAMEL AND HIS ANTICIPATED
SESSION WITH PRESIDENT SADAT JULY 30. PAPERS DREW HEAVILY
FROM KAMEL AND ATHERTON REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL, WITH
FOCUS ON EGYPTIAN FORMIN'S ASSERTION THAT, UNLESS THERE
NEW FACTORS IN ISRAELI POSITION, THERE NO REASON WASTE
TIME WITH FURTHER TALKS.

2. SFM. "AMERICAN OFFICIALS" QUOTED AS SAYING ATHERTON
HOPES EGYPT WILL AGREE PARTICIPATE IN NEW NEGOTIATIONS
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WITH ISRAELIS AT SFM IN EARLY AUGUST (AKHBAR AL
YOM PREDICTS THESE WILL RUN FROM AUGUST 7 TO 10).
GUMHURIYYA POSITS KEY TO RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS
WILL BE U.S. WILLINGNESS PRESENT AMERICAN IDEAS IN COMING
ROUND.

3. EDITORIALY, PAPERS DO NOT RULE OUT FURTHER TRILATERAL

MEETINGS. AHRAM BOARD CHAIRMAN ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL EMPHATICALLY DENIED DOOR CLOSED TO CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS. ECHOING LINE ESPOUSED BY VIRTUALLY ALL COLUMNISTS, ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL CITES BEGIN AS PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PEACE. AHRAM EDITOR CLAIMS IT UP TO U.S. "JEWISH PUBLIC OPINION" AND ISRAELIS TO PRESSURE BEGIN. SHOULD THESE TWO GROUPS FAVOR PEACE, WRITER CONCLUDES, BEGIN WILL BE LEFT WITH ONLY TWO CHOICES: TO RECONSIDER HIS STAND OR TO QUIT. PAPERS UNIVERSALLY FLAY ISRAELI PREMIER FOR HIS STUBBORNNESS, GREED, DREAMS, AND SUPERSTITIONS BUT TREATMENT OF BEGIN SOMEWHAT LESS HARSH THAN OTHER RECENT COMMENTARY. MOST OFFENSIVE REMARK CONTAINED IN AHRAM, WHERE SALEH MONTASSER NOTES BEGIN NOT COMPLETELY ALONE IN "BLIND JUDGMENT", FOR AMONG HIS SUPPORTERS THERE ARE SOME WHO "VIEW THE WORLD WITH ONE EYE", BECAUSE THEY CAN NOT DO OTHERWISE. EILTS

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